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17 December 1969

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: ARGO Meeting, Room 208, EOB, December 9, 1969

1. The meeting opened with Dr. Guthe representing CIA in lieu [redacted] and myself were there from NPIC. A copy of the published agenda is attached. [redacted] replacement [redacted] presided over his first ARGO meeting although [redacted] chaired most of the meeting as [redacted] was unfamiliar with pending subjects. [redacted] was there in his new BOB capacity - his interest lay in the question of how to avoid duplication by the civilian agencies of efforts of the intelligence community's aero/space reconnaissance program, -- as the former proceed with their plans to use imagery and other sensor products.

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2. [redacted] raised the point at the beginning and end of the meeting on planning for personnel, equipment and procedures for exploiting imagery and other sensors (primarily imagery) by the civilian agencies. [redacted] earlier suggestion that [redacted] be considered as one possibility was brought up -- [redacted] of USGS mentioned that his cleared-for-TK Reston facility had space for other agencies but was not being used by them -- we (NPIC) said we would make available our equipment catalogue in response to a point in that area. This discussion was concluded by [redacted] stating (a) that [redacted] (having left Agriculture and assumed NASA/user interface job in earth resources survey) would prepare some views on civilian needs for exploitation and (b) the next few meetings would be primarily concerned with this question - exploitation planning or, in [redacted] words, the data reduction process.

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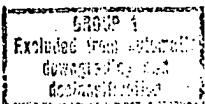
3. One point of [redacted] interest seemed to lie in a belief that automation may project far into the PI process - perhaps much further than is, in reality, possible. This may be the subject of further briefings by contractors and, on occasion, NPIC & NRO.

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4. Four briefings were given as noted in the agenda:

ESSA - Snow

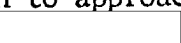
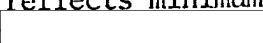
ESSA has experimented with resolution requirements for determining amounts of water contained in snow cover. They concluded that [redacted] resolution was needed above the timber line and [redacted] below that line. This seems to be a function of contours

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and available topographical information. The flatter lands make assessment of snow volume more difficult. NPIC had assisted in the experiment to the extent of making some contact prints through thicknesses of acetate in order to degrade the resolution to approach that point where it reflects minimum quality.  will get together with  of ESSA to try to improve techniques in water/snow measurements.

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USGS - Alaska Pipe Line

USGS presented a survey of a line from Prudhoe Bay on the Alaskan North Slope south through Fairbanks to the south Alaskan Shore. The line was to contain information necessary to planning a pipeline to take oil from the new fields recently discovered. The briefing entailed a rather complex use of maps (old and new), some "ancient" topographical descriptions, a variety of scales, mixed imagery, etc. The study provides the base for a ground truth survey.

Engineers - Civil Works Interest


The Engineers briefer divided an Engineer interest in high altitude imagery into three categories: Dams & Reservoirs - can use 10' resolution for location and site planning for high dams but need much greater resolution for this purpose in small dam planning. One foot contour interval needed for detailed plans. Flood Zone Damage - need photo bank (data base) for selected areas susceptible to damage - need aircraft at 6-8-10,000' to take photos for sufficient resolution (unstated) to provide sufficient detail for damage assessments. Coastal Projects - wave direction and height essential to shoreline planning can use nearly any photography from air or space. Engineers would like to build a data base of imagery over 10-12 Years to aid in such shore problems as inlets shifting.

NPIC - SO-242

 gave a briefing on SO-242 consisting of the EK presentation materials. He made some prints and a roll  available (a small portable light table from Navy was available). There was considerable interest shown. Bob handled the "evaluation" and "value" in good order - stating that the intelligence community was currently evaluating color for its purposes and that those present were aware that their needs were different.

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5.  NRO representative to ARGO, stated that NRO had set up an interagency group (would be the Naka group) to look at color

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including its value. As a result, the possibility of an ARGO briefing on the results was discussed as likely in January or February. I mentioned that it was likely each department and agency was, in addition to any interagency positions, determining the value of color to it -- this was said to dispel any feeling that in a month or two one would find a single pat answer to a multiplicity of need.

6. A final and serious "although seemingly facetious" note -- The U.S. Government (per [redacted]) is contracting with the Mexican government to sense mariuana and then destroy it. The by-product might be the ability to sense opium poppies under SECRET arrangement with Turkey.

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7. The next meeting will be held January 28th, 1970 at 9:30 A.M. in Room 208 EOB.

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[redacted]
Planning, Programming, & Budgeting Staff
NPIC

Attachment:

Memorandum For ARGO Committee Members
Dated - November 26, 1969
Subject - Change in ARGO Meeting Schedule
S E C R E T

Distribution:

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

ATTACHMENT TO

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November 26, 1969

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12/11/69

MEMORANDUM FOR ARGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUBJECT: Change in ARGO Meeting Schedule

The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm December 9, 1969 as the date for the next ARGO meeting. The time and place of the meeting remain unchanged at 9:30 in Room 208, E. O. B.

The agenda for this meeting will be:

1. Discussion of items pending from October 1, 1969 ARGO meeting - OST
2. Snow Cover Presentation - ESSA
3. Porter Range, Alaska Study - USGS
4. New material - NPIC
5. Civil Works interest in Remote Sensing - OCE

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